

Message Text

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44

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-15

OMB-01 SIL-01 LAB-06 OPR-02 NIC-01 EUR-25 IO-13 SR-02

ORM-03 RSR-01 /136 W

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P 301030Z JUL 73

FM AMCONSUL KARACHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7403

INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD PRIORITY

AMCONSUL LAHORE PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY KABUL

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE KARACHI 1328

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PIN PK

SUBJECT: WEEKEND CLASHES BETWEEN PRO-TEHRIK AND
PRO-PPP GROUPS IN KARACHI

REF: KARACHI 1302; 1313

1. MID-AFTERNOON OF JULY 28 GROUP OF PRO-PPP SUPPORTERS
OCCUPIED LIAQUATABAD OFFICE OF TEHRIK-I-ISTIQLAL SCHEDULED TO
BE INAUGURATED LATER IN AFTERNOON BY ASGHAR KHAN. SEIZURE
OF OFFICE PRODUCED NO POLICE REACTION. SUBSEQUENTLY
PRO-TEHRIK GROUP RANSACKED NEARBY UNOCCUPIED OFFICE OF PPP
AND BURNED OFFICE RECORDS AND FURNITURE. FOLLOWING THIS
INCIDENT POLICE AND ROVING BANDS CLASHED IN LIAQUATABAD
ARA. POLICE RESORTED TO OCCASIONAL USE OF TEAR GAS AND
LATHI CHARPES9 PRESS REPORTS INDICATE SOME POLICE INJURED
IBY STONS AND SEVERAL TEHRIK OFFICIALS WOUNDED WHEN OFFICE
SEIZED. DISTURBANCES, WHICH REMAINED CONFINED TO LIAQUATABAD,
WENT ON UNTIL LATE EVENING JULY 28. ASGHAR KHAN, WHO VISITED
PARTY OFFICE LATE IN AFTERNOON, LATER HELD PRESS CONFERENCE
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AT WHICH HE URGED SUPPORT OF "HARTAL" (GENERAL STRIKE) CALLED

FOR SUNDAY, JULY 29.

2. COMMENCING LATE MORNING JULY 29 REPLAY OF SATURDAY DISTURBANCES OCCURRED IN LIAQUATABAD, PITTING PRO-TEHRIK SUPPORTERS AGAINST POLICE, THESE DISTURBANCES COMMENCING SHORTLY BEFORE MID-DAY AGAIN LASTED UNTIL LATE EVENING. MONDAY PRESS CARRIED NO REPORTS OF SERIOUS INJURIES, BUT INDICATE AS MANY AS 100 MAY HAVE BEEN ARRESTED OR DETAINED DURING COURSE OF DISTURBANCES. AT A SUNDAY PRESS CONFERENCE ASGHAR CONGRATULATED PEOPLE OF KARACHI FOR "DEMONSTRATION OF THEIR RESISTANCE AGAINST FASISM." SIND CHIEF MINISTER BHUTTO HAS EXPRESSED SHOCK AT LAWLESSNESS DISPLAYED BY PEOPLE OF KARACHI AND LIAQUATABAD IN PARTICULAR, AND EXPECTED THEY WOULD HAVE LEARNED THEIR LESSON AND REALIZED NEED FOR A CALM AND SENSIBLE APPROACH TOWARDS ALL PROBLEMS. CHIEF MINISTER ADDED, GOVERNMENT UNDER ALL CIRCUMSTANCES WILL DISCHARGE ITS DUTIES TO MAINTAIN LAW AND ORDER.

3. AS OF MID-DAY JULY 30, LIAQUATABAD AREA WAS NOT REPEAT NOT COMPLETELY NORMAL. VEHICULAR TRAFFIC PATTERNS, WHICH HAD BEEN INTERRUPTED DURING SUNDAY'S DISTURBANCES, REMAINED SO. LOCAL AUTHORITIES ANNOUNCED REOPENING KARACHI'S SCHOOLS, SCHEDULED FOR AUGUST 1, HAS BEEN POSTPONED TO AUGUST 8, OFFERING AS JUSTIFICATION FACT THAT PEOPLE AFFECTED BY RECENT HEAVY RAINS WHO ARE OCCUPYING SCHOOL PREMISES WILL NOT VACATE PREMISES UNTIL AUGUST 5.

4. COMMENT: THAT THESE DISTURBANCES OCCURRED IN LIAQUATABAD, A HEAVILY REFUGEE AREA OF KARACHI, IS NOT TOO SURPRISING. THIS SAME AREA WAS CENTER OF SOME OF MORE SERIOUS DISTURBANCES DURING JULY 1972 LANGUAGE TROUBLES AND

RESIDENTS REPORTEDLY RESENTFUL THAT GOVERNMENT IS HAMPERING PROGRAMS OF OPPOSITION SPOKE MEN. SOME MAINTAIN INITIAL PROVOCATION, SEIZURE TEHRIK OFFICE BY PRO-PPP SUPPORTERS, CONTRIBUTED SIGNIFICANTLY TO INSUING DISTURBANCES. DURATION OF DISTURBANCES COULD BE PROLONGED IF SIMILAR INCIDENTS OCCUR IN AREAS ADJOINING LIAQUATABAD.

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DECONTROL UPON RECEIPT.
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